



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

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www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contacts:

Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
(208) 332-6934
jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

Kelly Everitt
Communications Specialist
(208) 332-6818
keveritt@sde.idaho.gov

DEPARTMENT UNVEILS CHANGES IN CONTRACTING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

(BOISE) – Contracting procedures and practices have received a much needed overhaul at the Idaho State Department of Education, Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today. Over the past several months, at the directive of the superintendent, the department staff has openly reviewed the contracting practices throughout the department, and made significant changes to better track contracts, streamline contracting procedures, and cut down on unnecessary spending of taxpayers' dollars.

"Since taking office this has been one of my first goals to accomplish," Superintendent Sherri Ybarra said. "Changing our contracting practices and procedures is not only the most sensible thing to do, but it will be a positive change moving forward to encourage open and transparent contracting practices while also encouraging healthy competition to allow for the best contracting price."

The department has fully overhauled contracting practices, moving towards master contracts rather than numerous sub-contracts with many different vendors, universities, and hotels for services and the hosting of events and conferences. The department has also hired Tony Pirc, the department's Chief Procurement Officer, to manage the contracting and procurement processes.

"This is an opportunity to clean up the contracting process and provide transparency," Tony said. "It's our opportunity to ensure that contracts are only being signed when needed, and to ensure that we are properly and prudently spending taxpayers' dollars wisely regardless of the contract that is being signed."

All contracts not only pass through the hands of the Chief Procurement Officer, they are also subject to legal review by the department's Deputy Attorney General when necessary. For more information about changes to the department's contracting processes and procedures, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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Media Note: Pirc is pronounced, Pierce.